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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/304,523	05/04/1999	SHUNPEI YAMAZAKI	07977/046002	9801
20985	7590	12/09/2003	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, PC 12390 EL CAMINO REAL SAN DIEGO, CA 92130-2081			KUNEMUND, ROBERT M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1765	

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/304,523

Applicant(s)

YAMAZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Robert M Kunemund

Art Unit

1765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-30 and 37-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 25-30, 43 and 44 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-24, 37-42 and 45-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1765

The Rejections

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 7-24, 37 to 42 and 45 to 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imahashi in view of Celler et al. .

Imahashi et al. teaches (col. 5 lines 10-23 and 34) a method for manufacturing an LCD device, comprising the step of: forming a semiconductor (amorphous silicon) film over a substrate having an insulating upper surface (glass substrate); and irradiating (crystallizing by heating) the semiconductor film with an excimer laser beam having a cross section which is elongated in one

Art Unit: 1765

direction (rectangular cross section), while relatively moving the substrate (holding the substrate with a vacuum chuck) during transport (col. 7 line 13, also col. 1 and 2.

Imahashi et al. does not teach vacuum- holding the lower surface of the substrate in contact with the flat surface of the stage during irradiation. Seller et al. teaches vacuum-holding the lower surface of the substrate in contact with the flats surface of the stage during irradiation (i.e, holding the substrate with a vacuum chuck during laser irradiation, col. 6 lines 39-40). Because it would have been convenient to do so, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to combine the teachings of seller et al. with those of Yamachiche et al. So as to hold the substrate during laser irradiation with a vacuum chuck.

Imahashi et al. does not teach that the vacuum chuck comprises a stage having a flat surface, and at least one suction inlet, and operates in such a manner that the lower surface of the substrate is in contact with the flats surface of the stage. However, since Imahashi et al. Teach the method claimed, under the principle of inherence the invention is considered to be anticipated in this regard by Imahashi et al. as evidence tending to show inherency, it is noted that a vacuum chuck must embody these properties if it is to be used effectively.

Imahashi et al. does not teach flattening the substrate. However, since Imahashi et al. teaches the method claimed, under the principle of inherence the invention is considered to be anticipated in this regard by Imahashi et al. As evidence tending to show inherence, it is noted that any substrate held successfully by a vacuum chuck must tend to flattened by the pressure

Art Unit: 1765

difference. Also, the reference does not teach the use of clamps on the stage. However, this is an apparatus limitation in a method claim and given little or no weight in determining patentability. One of ordinary skill in the art would have obvious use clamps to aid in the holding of the substrate in order to create a uniform surface for crystallization.

Imahashi et al. does not teach irradiating the crystallized semiconductor film (claims 19-24, 41 and 42). Seller et al. teaches irradiating the crystallized semiconductor film Col. 6 lines 28-29). Because Seller et al. teaching that this increases mobility (col. 1 lines 35-39 and 54-58), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to combine the teachings of Seller et al. with those of Imahashi et al. so as irradiate the crystallized semiconductor film and produce a superior LCD device as an expected result.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert Kunemund at telephone number (703) 308-1091.

R. Kunemund/lw

Application/Control Number: 09304523

Page 5

Art Unit: 1765

May 25, 2001



ROBERT KUNEMUND
PRIMARY EXAMINER